International Atomic Energy Agency
INFORMATION CIRCULAR

INF

INFCIRC/564
11 June 1998

GENERAL Distr.
ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

COMMUNICATION OF 3 JUNE 1998 RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BELARUS TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Attached is a communication received from the Permanent Mission of Belarus forwarding a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, for the information of Member States.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number.

98-01998

Пастаяннае прадстаўніцтва
Рэспублікі Беларусь
пры міжнародных арганізацыях
у Вене

Permanent Mission of
the Republic of Belarus
to the International Organizations
in Vienna

Hüttelbergstrasse 6, Wien, A-1140, Österreich, Tel. 419 96 30, Fax 419 96 30 30

№ 826/a

3 June 1998

Dear Mr. Director-General,

I have the honour to forward herewith the Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus on the recent nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan.

I would highly appreciate if the IAEA Secretariat could circulate the Statement for the information of Members States of the Agency in official languages of the Organization.

Sincerely yours,

V. Fisenka

Valyantsin Fisenka,
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of Belarus
to the International Organizations
in Vienna

Mr. Mohamed ElBaradei
Director General
International Atomic Energy Agency

Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Dated 1 June 1998

The Republic of Belarus has received the news of the nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan with alarm and concern. This series of nuclear tests is provoking the spread of nuclear weapons in the world on the threshold of the twenty-first century, constitutes a new spiral in the nuclear arms race, and creates considerable additional difficulties for further nuclear arms reductions.

These events run counter to the consistent efforts of the world community to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime at the global and regional level which is vital for international stability and security.

The Republic of Belarus, which made the historical decision several years ago to renounce its own nuclear potential and which is a party to a number of very important agreements in the field of nuclear disarmament, cannot but feel particular concern and alarm at this turn of events.

The Republic of Belarus calls on all countries which have not acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and which have military nuclear programmes to review their present nuclear policy, accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and work towards a cut-off treaty, which will all help realize mankind's hopes for a non-nuclear world in the twenty-first century.

The events of the past few days have intensified our fears of a possible chain reaction of nuclear proliferation not just in the South Asia region but beyond. The absence of any legal obligations to the international community opens the way for this.

The Republic of Belarus, it will be recalled, in line with its consistent anti-nuclear policy and because of its concern for future generations for the fate of the European continent and for the fate of the world as a whole, has urged, and continues to urge, all countries, in the light of today's realities, to support the idea of creating a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central and Eastern Europe.

The Republic of Belarus is convinced that realization of this goal will strengthen security and trust on the continent, will reinforce the geographical non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and will be an important step towards further consolidation of peace and stability in Europe and the world as a whole.

We believe that all countries not possessing nuclear weapons could assume formal commitments renouncing the deployment of nuclear weapons on their territory.

The Republic of Belarus appeals to the nuclear powers to undertake never under any circumstances to deploy nuclear weapons on the territory of countries not possessing such weapons.